

May 29, 2003

**Public Notice for 401 Certification
Crocker Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit**

On January 13, 2003 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Richard Stabler, on behalf of the County of Sonoma (County), requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the State and other water quality impacts associated with the development of the proposed project.

The Crocker Road Bridge, built in 1938, spans the Russian River near Cloverdale. The bridge does not meet current seismic safety standards, which means that the bridge would sustain heavy damage (including possible collapse) during a large earthquake. California has a statewide program to retrofit bridges to comply with seismic safety standards, and so the County proposes to retrofit Crocker Road Bridge.

In order to retrofit the bridge, the County proposes to divert flowing water through several culverts which would be placed in the low-flow channel, excavate temporary stilling basins on the exposed gravel bars, and install gravel work pads to facilitate pile drilling and falsework construction. Activities proposed also include installing eight 60-inch diameter, cast-in-drill-hole concrete pilings; constructing an enlarged concrete footing; and installing additional rock slope protection. As proposed, the project would result in the excavation and placement of 5,250 cubic yards of clean, local river-run gravel for the work pads; the excavation and backfill of 4,445 cubic yards of substrate for the stilling basins; the excavation and stockpiling of 570 cubic yards of substrate bored from the piling holes; the discharge of 600 cubic yards of poured-in-place concrete for the pilings and foundation cap; and ultimately the placement of 180 cubic yards of rock below the plane of ordinary high water in 1.40 acres of creekbed.

The County has adopted a categorical CEQA exemption for the project (Section 15269 (e) Seismic work on highways and bridges pursuant to section 180.2 of the Streets and Highways Code). The Regional Water Board has not made a CEQA determination at this time. The project qualifies for a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. Furthermore, the applicant consulted with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (formerly National Marine Fisheries Service) and the project qualifies for Nationwide Permits 3 and 33 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

At this time the Regional Water Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Certification Permit. In addition, the Regional Water Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Lauren Hocker by email at hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, or send comments to NCRWQCB, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.